

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04 ITC-01

TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 FEA-00 OMB-01 XMB-02

OPIC-03 /092 W

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R 260542Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7588

INFO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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STATE PASS AGRICULTURE FOR MEEKER AND ANDERSON

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, AS

SUBJECT: AMB TO CONTROL MEAT EXPORTS TO U.S.

1. THE AMB HAS ADVISED EXPORTERS OF A NEW PLAN TO CONTROL THE FLOW OF BEEF EXPORTS TO THE U.S. IN ORDER TO STAY WITHIN THE ANTICIPATED TONNAGE WHICH WILL BE PERMITTED INTO THE U.S. DURING 1976 UNDER THE VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT AGREEMENT, AND TO ENSURE A CONTINUOUS FLOW OF MEAT THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. ALTHOUGH THE EXACT LEVEL OF THE U.S. QUOTA IS NOT KNOWN, THE BOARD DECIDED TO ALLOCATE A TARGET TONNAGE FOR THREE SEPARATE TIME PERIODS WITH A SPECIFIC QUANTITY FOR EACH PERIOD. THE PERIODS AND THE APPROXIMATE TONNAGES PERMISSABLE FOR THE BALANCE OF 1976 ARE AS FOLLOWS: MARCH TO MAY 75,000 MT; JUNE TO AUGUST 85,000 MT; AND SEPTEMBER TO NOVEMBER 56,000 MT. THE TOTAL FOR THE THREE PERIODS COMBINED IS 216,000 MT.

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WM SHIPMENTS DURING THE DECEMBER TO FEBRUARY PERIOD ARE

NOW ESTIMATED TO BE ABOUT 80,000 MT. THIS WOULD GIVE A TARGET TOTAL FOR U.S. ARRIVALS DURING 1976 OF 296,000 MT. THIS FIGURE DOES NOT INCLUDE MEAT HELD IN BOND AS A RESULT OF OVER SHIPMENTS DURING 1975. NO FIRM ESTIMATE HAS BEEN MADE OF THIS AS YET. THE BOARD POINTED OUT THAT IT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MAKE ANY ADJUSTMENTS NECESSARY IN THE ABOVE ALLOCATIONS TO MEET THE ACTUAL QUOTA LIMIT WHEN IT IS ANNOUNCED. ADJUSTMENTS WILL ALSO BE PROVIDED FOR SHOULD A SHORTFALL ALLOCATION BE DECLARED LATER IN THE YEAR.

3. IN ORDER TO IMPLEMENT THIS PLAN THE BOARD WILL FREEZE A PORTION OF THE EXPORT CREDITS EARNED UNDER THE EXISTING DIVERSIFICATION SCHEME. THE DIVERSIFICATION FACTOR WILL REMAIN AT 1 AND 1/2 TO 1, BUT FROM MARCH 1 TO MAY 31, 35 PERCENT OF THE DIVERSIFICATION CREDITS NOW HELD WILL BE FROZEN. ANY NEW CREDITS EARNED DURING THAT PERIOD WILL BE 100 PERCENT FROZEN. THE SITUATION WILL BE REVIEWED ON MAY 20 TO DETERMINE THE LEVEL AT WHICH EARNED CREDITS CAN BE USED IN SUBSEQUENT SHIPPING PERIODS.

4. COMMENT:

OFFICIALS HERE ASSURED US THAT THE TARGET ALLOCATIONS FOR THE BALANCE OF THE YEAR WOULD BE ADJUSTED AS NEEDED TO MEET THE QUOTA LIMIT. ON THE OTHER HAND AMB DOES NOT WANT TO UNDER SHIP AND BE CAUGHT IN A POSITION WHERE THEY ARE NOT ABLE TO FULFIL ANY SHORTFALL THAT MIGHT BE MADE LATER IN THIS YEAR. POST WOULD APPRECIATE BEING BROUGHT UP TO DATE REGARDING CURRENT STATUS OF THE NEGOTIATION ON THE VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT PROGRAM. HARGROVE

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